

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed January 13, 2004. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-33 were pending in this Application. Claims 1-10 and 12-33 were rejected. Claim 11 was allowed.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-10, 12-33 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite and failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant has cancelled Claims 21 and 22. Applicant has amended Claims 1, 12 - 20, and 23 - 33 to overcome these rejections.

The amendments are believed to be self-explanatory relative to the associated rejections. Several comments may be in order however.

The phrases "wafer scale simulation result" and "feature scale simulation result" are explained on pages 43 - 44 in connection with FIGUREs 8A, 8B, and 9. The preamble of Claim 23 has been amended to make clear that these outputs are estimates resulting from a CMP simulation process.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of all pending claims as amended.

An extension of one (1) month is requested and a Notification of Extension of Time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 with the appropriate fee of \$55.00 is attached herewith.

Applicant also encloses a Change of Correspondence Address Form.

Applicant believes there are no additional fees due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

ATTORNEY DOCKET
090936.0395

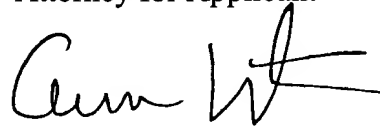
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If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicant's attorney at 512.322.2634.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorney for Applicant

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann W", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ann C. Livingston
Reg. No. 32,479

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Baker Botts L.L.P.

CUSTOMER ACCOUNT NO. **31625**

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Date: May 13, 2004